

## **BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED TASK FORCE**

### **Meeting Minutes**

1:30-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 13, 2002

City Hall, Culver City

#### **I Introductions**

Jessica Dominguez welcomed meeting participants and gave a brief overview of the agenda items.

The following handouts were given: March agenda, February meeting minutes, Santa Monica Conservancy "Outdoors in Los Angeles" map, and "Wildlife and Native Species of the Ballona Creek Watershed".

The Minutes and Agenda were approved as written.

#### **II Wildlife and Native Species of the Ballona Creek Watershed**

After introduction by Jim Lamm, Roy Van de Hoek, of the Sierra Club/Ballona Watershed Council & Conservancy gave a visual presentation of the wildlife and native species in the Ballona Creek watershed. Some of the subjects were:

- \$ The Watershed
- \$ Structure Above Ground: Plants, Soil, and Rock
- \$ Wildlife in a 24 Hour Cycle Setting
- \$ Wildlife in Four Seasons
- \$ Wildlife in Two Seasons
- \$ Wildlife Players Below Ground
- \$ Wildlife in Vernal Pools
- \$ Wildlife in Tidal Zones Along Tidal Creek Between the Tides
- \$ Wildlife in Seasonal Non-tidal Zones Between and Along Streams

At the conclusion of Roy's presentation, we discussed possibilities that the watershed management plan might include enhancements to restore or re-establish wildlife habitat. Specifically:

- \$ Seek opportunities to build nesting platforms (or plant more trees) for American Ospreys, Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and other large birds;
  - \$ Tidal marsh lands can be restored at edges of marinas;
  - \$ Harbor seals would return to the creek if it is restored;
  - \$ Long-term goals should include intent to establish a Ballona Creek natural preserve;
  - \$ Mud pools are needed within creek uplands to promote nesting by swallows;
- "Side ponds" (out of main flow path) are necessary to recover fresh water fish, including endangered species such as chub, sucker and stickleback and pond turtles.

Marsha Hanscom added that if people are interested in learning more about the ballona wetlands ecosystem, Roy van de Hoek conducts walking tours on the last Sunday of each

month (<http://www.geocities.com/wetlandsan/roybio.htm>).

Abby Fox also mentioned that the Ballona Wetlands Foundation provides nature walks in the wetlands, which are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month ([www.ballona-wetlands.org /pages/restore\\_tour.html](http://www.ballona-wetlands.org/pages/restore_tour.html)).

Roy asked if people would be interested in having a short tour of the Creek right before the next Task Force meeting on April 10. A show of hands indicated that many people would like to. It was recommended that people who are interested in joining the tour meet at 12:00 pm, April 10, at City Hall

### **III Issues of Interest to the Watershed**

Guangyu Wang introduced this agenda item and reiterated that the objectives of the prioritization is to provide the coming consultants a better understanding on issues they need to focus their efforts on. The results of the prioritization will also help to set agenda for future Task Force meetings. He also suggested that people give consideration to three criteria when prioritizing the issues of interest. These three factors are (1) if the issue deals with the most serious water quality/habitat impairments in the watershed, (2) if the issue represents the biggest data gap, and (3) if it is a project that most likely to be funded. Jim Donovan of the National Park Service's Rivers and Trails Program then facilitated an exercise to prioritize the issues of interest. He distributed three dots to each stakeholder and asked everyone to place the dots on the category headings which the stakeholders feel are most important.

As a result of this exercise, the general categories we developed in prior meetings were organized in the following order: (1) water quality and quantity, (2) ecosystems, (3) public outreach, (4) public benefits, (5) sub-systems, (6) land use, and (7) maintenance. Mapping, economics, and all other categories received no votes, but will remain on the list. A comprehensive listing will be made available at our April meeting.

### **IV Next Steps**

Two new committees, Monitoring and Funding Committee were formed. While a few additional participants may be considered, the stakeholders who expressed interest in participating in these efforts include:

#### Monitoring Committee

John Crosse  
Angie Bera  
Ginachi Amah  
Jessica Dominguez  
Roy van de Hoek  
Wing Tam

#### Funding Committee

Marcia Hanscom  
Catherine Tyrrell  
Jim Lamm  
Guangyu Wang  
Lu Plauzoles  
John Crosse  
Roy van de Hoek  
Wing Tam

Guangyu explained the reason for establishing a funding committee at this time. \$300 million has been set aside for watershed protection/restoration enhancement in the recently passed Prop. 40 State bond measure. He recommended that the Funding Committee could develop a package of and try to get a placeholder to set aside funding for projects that benefit the Ballona Creek Watershed.

Wing Tam reported that the draft RFP as developed by the Plan Development Steering Committee is now undergoing final LA County review and processing. Catherine Tyrrell asked if the task force stakeholders would have an opportunity to review the RFP before issuance. Jessica Dominguez indicated that she would check and confirm. (Subsequent to the meeting, Project Manager Menerva Ariki confirmed that the draft RFP is available on request to stakeholders who are not potential applicants or applicant team members.)

At next month's meeting, there will be a presentation on the Irvine Ranch Water District natural treatment system and reconstructed wetlands. Angie Bera of the Santa Monica Baykeeper will be presenting their current efforts in public outreach education at our May meeting. The Baldwin Hills Conservancy is also interested in informing the Task Force on their efforts and progress on the Recreational Area Preliminary General Plan in June.

## **V Upcoming Events**

Baldwin Hills Earth Day Weekend Event is being held on Saturday, April 20, 2002. Cleanup, restoration, and environmental fair activities are planned. Based on interest expressed at the meeting, Jim Lamm will arrange for a BCWTF booth. John Crosse and Lu Plauzoles volunteered to help. Interested stakeholder groups or agencies may want to participate and have a booth display.

The Baldwin Hills Conservancy Board typically meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month at Kenneth Hahn Recreation Center, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Check their web site for updates and details ([www.bhc.ca.gov/](http://www.bhc.ca.gov/)).

The next Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2002, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Culver City, following an optional short walking tour of Ballona Creek at the nearby Duquesne Avenue crossing. Those interested will meet at the Patacchia Room at noon to car pool to the site.

**The Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force Attendees  
March 13, 2002**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
<b>Amah, Ginachi</b>	LA Regional Water Quality Control Board	<b>gamah@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov</b>
<b>Austin, Al</b>	State Senator Kevin Murray	<b>Austin2AL@aol.com</b>
<b>Bera, Angie</b>	SM Baykeeper	<b>octopus@smbaykeeper.org</b>
<b>Bradford, Melanie</b>	CalTrans	<b>Melanie_Bradford@dot.ca.gov</b>
<b>Chagnon, Shelly</b>	City of Culver City	<b>shelly.chagnon@culvercity.org</b>
<b>Crosse, John</b>	Vista del Mar Neighbors Association	<b>jocrosse@attbi.com</b>
<b>Curtiss, D.</b>	D.A. Curtiss	<b>curt7880@aol.com</b>
<b>Delgado, Doug</b>	Calvin Abe Assoc. Landscape Architects	<b>ddelgado@ahbe.com</b>
<b>Dominguez, Jessica</b>	LA County Department of Public Works	<b>jdominguez@ladpw.org</b>
<b>Donovan, Jim</b>	National Park Service Rivers and Trails	<b>Jim_Donovan@nps.gov</b>
<b>Duvivier, Isabelle</b>	AIA-COTE	<b>Isabelled@attbi.com</b>
<b>Ehlers, Doug</b>		<b>dougehlers@attbi.com</b>
<b>Fox, Abby</b>	Ballona Wetlands Foundation	<b>abbyfox@ballona-wetlands.org</b>
<b>Gold, Bobbi</b>	Ballona Creek Renaissance	<b>bobbi.gold@worldnet.att.net</b>
<b>Hanscom, Marica</b>	Wetlands Action Network	<b>wetlandact@earthlink.net</b>
<b>Howard, Alex</b>	UCLA - Student	<b>ahoward@ucla.edu</b>
<b>Kuwayama, Holly</b>	Mia Lehrer & Associates	<b>holly@mlagreen.com</b>
<b>Lamm, Jim</b>	Ballona Creek Renaissance	<b>JWLamm@aol.com</b>
<b>Lay, Tonda</b>		<b>tlay@co.la.ca.us</b>
<b>McNeill, David</b>	Baldwin Hills Conservancy	<b>dfmcneill@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>Plauzoles, Lu</b>	Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society	<b>lacite@aol.com</b>
<b>Rutherford, Cassandra</b>	LA County Dept. of Beaches and Harbors	<b>cassandrar@dbh.co.la.ca.us</b>
<b>Shapiro, Mim</b>	Ballona Creek Renaissance	<b>hankshapiro@juno.com</b>
<b>Tam, Wing</b>	City of LA- Watershed Protection Division	<b>wtam@san.lacity.org</b>
<b>Tyrrell, Catherine</b>	Playa Vista	<b>ctyrrell@playavista.com</b>
<b>van de Hoek, Roy</b>	Ballona Watershed Council & Conservancy	<b>ballonawatershed@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Wang, Guang-Yu</b>	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project	<b>gwang@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov</b>